PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,

CONVENED IN THE

STATE CAPITOL AT HARRISBURG,

DECEMBER 2, 1840.

HARRISBURG:

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1840.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

HARRISBURG, Wednesday, December 2, 1840.

This being the day appointed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for the meeting of the Electors of President and Vice President of the United States—The Electors chosen by the people of Pennsylvania, at the last election, assembled in the Capitol, at 12 o'clock, M.

The College was called to order.

Mr. McKennan moved the organization of the College by the appointment of JOHN ANDREW SHULZE, of Lycoming county, as President.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ross.

The question was then put by Mr. McKennan, and determined in the affirmative.

JOHN ANDREW SHULZE, of Lycoming Co., was then declared elected by an unanimous vote.

Mr. Shulze was conducted to the chair by Mr. Ritner and Mr. Middleswarth.

A motion was then made by Mr. McKennan, and seconded by Mr. Dick, that Alex. Ramsey of Harrisburg, be appointed Secretary of the Electoral College.

Which was agreed to,

And Mr. Ramsey was declared to have been unanimously elected Secretary.

The President laid before the College a letter from Col. Buehler, politely tendering the use of the Senate Chamber to the College, which was read and ordered to be placed on the Journal of the College.

OFFICE OF CLERK OF THE SENATE,
Harrisburg, December 1, 1840.

GENTLEMEN:

I have directed the Senate Chamber to be prepared for the Session of the Electoral College of Pennsylvania, and take pleasure in apprizing you that it is now in readiness for the reception thereof.

I have the honor to be,
Very Respectfully, Yours, &c.,
HENRY BUEHLER,
Clerk of the Senate.

To the Electors of President and Vice President of the U. States.

The Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth being introduced, presented a Message from the Governor, which, with the accompanying lists, was read as follows:

HARRISBURG, December 2, 1840.

To the Electors of a President and Vice President of the United States.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:

The Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth will deliver to you herewith, in pursuance of an Act of Congress, in such case made and provided, three lists of the names of the Electors of a President and Vice President of the United States, chosen by the people on Friday the thirtieth day of October, in the present year, for this State, agreeably to the constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Pennsylvania.

DAVID R. PORTER.

PENNSYLVANIA, ss.

[DAVID R. PORTER.]

In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, David R. Porter, Governor of the said Commonwealth, to all whom these presents shall come, certifies and makes known, that at an election held in and for the State of Pennsylvania, on Friday the 30th day of October, A. D., 1840, the following named persons, to wit: John Andrew Shulze, Joseph Ritner, Levis Passmore, John Price Wetherill, Thomas P. Cope, Jonathan Gillingham, Amos Ellmaker, Abraham R. McIlvaine, John K. Zeilin, Robert Stinson, William S. Hendric, J. Jenkins Ross, Peter Filbert, William Addams, John Harper, William McIlvain, John Dickson, John McKeehan, John Reed, Ashbel B. Wilson, Ner Middleswarth, Geo. Walker, Bernard Connelly, jr. Joseph Markle, Justus G. Fordyce, Thomas M. T. McKennan, Harmar Denny, Joseph Buffington, Henry Black and John Dick, are the persons for whom the greatest number of votes were polled at the said election and that they were duly elected and returned to be the Electors of a President and Vice President of the United States for the term of four years next ensuing the fourth day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, agreeably to the Constitution and Laws of the United States and of Pennsylvania.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at Harrisburg, this second day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, and of the Commonwealth the sixty-fifth.

By the Governor.

H. PETRIKEN,
Dep. Sec. of the Commonwealth.

(The other two lists are verbatim copies of the above.)

Gov. Ritner informed the College that by letter from Mr. Connelly, Elector from Somerset, he was desired to announce to the College his inability to join in its deliberations.

On motion, the letter was read and ordered to be entered on the minutes of the College.

26 November, 1840.

Joseph Ritner, Esq., one of the Electors of President and Vice President of the United States.

Respected Sir:

This is to inform you, that I am now laboring under an attack of inflammation of the lungs, which, in addition to a chronic pulmonary complaint, precludes the possibility of my attendance at Harrisburg next Wednesday, to perform the duties of an Elector of President and Vice President of the United States. You will therefore be pleased to communicate the circumstance to the other Electors, and proceed to choose some suitable person in my place.

I regret extremely my inability to attend on the occasion, and would have risked traveling even in the present unfavorable state of the weather here, but for a very recent renewal of my complaint, by which I am entirely confined to my room.

I remain very respectfully,
Your friend and obedient servant,
BERNARD CONNELLY, Jr.

On motion of Mr. Zeilin, seconded by Mr. Markle, the follow Preamble and Resolution were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Bernard Connelly, jr., one of the Electors duly chosen and proclaimed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has from sickness failed to attend at the Seat of Government at the time appointed by law, therefore,

Resolved, That the Electors present proceed to fill said vacancy according to the 31st Section of the Act of Assembly approved July 2, 1839.

On motion of Mr. Cope, the College preceeded to vote, *vive voce*, for an Elector to supply said vacancy, the Secretary acting as teller, when it appearing that Thomas H. Burrowes, Esq. had received twenty-nine votes, the whole number of Electors present, he was declared to be duly elected to supply such vacancy.

The President of the College, by the hands of a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Middleswarth, Wetherill and Dick, transmitted the following Notice to the Governor:

To his Excellency, David R. Porter, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

All the Electors of President and Vice President, mentioned in your Proclamation of 16th November, 1840, except Bernard Connelly, jr., assembled at the Borough of Harrisburg, in the County of

Dauphin, Pa., December 2d, 1840, at 12 o'clock M., and said Bernard Connelly having failed to attend at Harrisburg aforesaid, the said Electors chose, *viva voce*, Thomas H. Burrowes to fill the vacancy occasioned by the absence of said Bernard Connelly, jr.

In witness whereof I have hereunto
set my hand, Dec. 2, 1840.

JOHN ANDREW SHULZE,
President of the College of Electors.

Attest,—

ALEX. RAMSEY, Secretary.

After a short absence the Committee informed the College that the Governor would forthwith notify Mr. Burrowes of his election.

Mr. Burrowes then appeared and read the following notice:

PENNSYLVANIA, ss.

In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, David R. Porter, Governor of the said Commonwealth, To Thomas H. Burrowes, Esq. senus Greeting: Whereas, I have been notified by the President of the College of Electors of President and Vice President of the United States, for the State of Pennsylvania at the Seat of Government, that a vacancy has occurred in that body, by the absence of Bernard Connelly, jr. who was duly elected one of the said Electors, and that the Electors present, as aforesaid, in conformity with the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided, have chosen you, the said Thomas H. Burrowes, Esq. to be an Elector to supply the said vacancy. You are therefore, by these presents, notified of your election as one of the Electors of President and Vice President aforesaid; and you are requested forthwith to meet with the other Electors now present at the Seat of Government to perform the duties enjoined on them by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Given under my hand and the Less Seal of the State at Harrisburg, this Second day of December, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and forty, and of the Commonwealth the sixty-fifth.

DAVID R. PORTER.

On motion of Mr. McKennan, seconded by Mr. Fordyce,

The following Resolution was read and adopted:

Resolved, That at the election, the Electors vote in the order that their names appear in the official lists furnished by the Executive, and that the names be called by the Secretary of the College.

On motion of Mr. Zeilin, seconded by Mr. Harper,

The College proceeded to ballot for President of the United States, Mr. Zeilin and Mr. Middleswarth being appointed tellers.

The votes of all the Electors being taken, the votes for President were opened and severally read by the President of the College, and the votes and tally lists corresponding, it appeared that William Henry Harrison of Ohio, had thirty votes.

The President of the College then declared that WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON had thirty votes for President of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Markle and Mr. Stinson,

The College proceeded to ballot for Vice President of the United States, tellers as before.

The votes of all the Electors being taken, the votes for Vice President were opened and severally read by the President of the College, and the votes and tally papers corresponding, it appeared that John Tyler of Virginia, had thirty votes.

Whereupon, the President of the College declared that JOHN TYLER had thirty votes for Vice President of the United States.

On motion of Mr. McKennan, seconded by Mr. McIlvaine of Chester,

The Electors severally signed the triplicate certificates of the Election for President, agreeably to the following form:

"We, the Electors of President and Vice President of the United States, being duly elected and appointed on the part of the State of Pennsylvania for that purpose, by the people thereof, having met at the State House in the Borough of Harrisburg, the Seat of Government of said State, this second day of December (being the first Wednesday thereof) in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty; and in conformity to the provisions contained in the constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Pennsylvania, proceeded by ballot to vote for a President of the United States: Whereupon, it appeared that William Henry Harrison of Ohio had thirty votes.

"In testimony whereof, we, the said Electors, have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals, the day and year aforesaid."

On motion, the Electors then severally signed the triplicate certificates of the election for Vice President agreeably to the following form:

"We, the Electors of President and Vice President of the United States, being duly elected and appointed on the part of the State of Pennsylvania, for that purpose, by the people thereof, having met at the State House in the borough of Harrisburg, the Seat of Government of said State, this second day of December (being the first Wednesday thereof) in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty, and in conformity to the provisions contained in the constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Pennsylvania, proceeded by ballot to vote for a Vice President of the United States: Whereupon it appeared that John Tyler of Virginia had thirty votes.

"In testimony whereof, we, the said Electors, have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals, the day and year aforesaid."

On motion of Mr. Wetherill and Mr. Ross,

Ordered, That Messrs. Wetherill, Ross and Buffington, be a committee on accounts, to settle the pay due each Elector respectively.

On motion of Mr. Black and Mr. Reed,

Messrs. Black, McIlvain of York, and Reed, were appointed a committee to examine the signatures to the certificates and the envelopes, and see that all the Electors have severally signed the same.

On motion of Mr. Dick and Mr. Addams,

The following resolution was read and adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to cause the lists and certificates of the election of President and Vice President of the United States to be enclosed with the proper envelopes, and each package to be sealed and directed as required by law.

And Messrs. Dick, Addams and Hendrie were appointed said committee.

On Motion of Mr. McKennan,

Mr. Ritner was appointed to convey the vote of the College to the President of the Senate at Washington City.

On motion of Mr. Middleswarth,

Mr. Hendrie was appointed to take charge of one of the packages of votes and certificates and deliver the same to Joseph Hopkinson, Judge of the Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Mr. Middleswarth,

Ordered, that when this College adjourns it will adjourn to meet again to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

When, on motion of Mr. Ross, the College adjourned.

THURSDAY, December 3, 1840.

The College met.

The minutes of the preceding session were read.

The following form for the envelopes of the certificates of votes, as directed by law, was read and adopted, viz:

"We, the Electors duly elected on the part of the State of Pennsylvania to vote for a President and Vice President of the United States, do certify, that lists of all the votes given for President and Vice President are contained herein.

Harrisburg, Dec. 3, 1840."

On motion of Mr. Black,

The Electors then proceeded to sign the envelopes agreeably to the adopted form.

Mr. Wetherill from the Committee on accounts, reported as follows:

The undersigned, a committee appointed to settle the pay of each Elector, beg leave to report the following statement of the respective sums due members of the Electoral College, for compensation allowed them by law, and that they are respectively entitled to the following sums, viz:

John Andrew Shulze,	$15 00
Joseph Ritner,	9 00
Levis Passmore,	15 00
John P. Whetherill,	15 00
Thos. P. Cope,	15 00
J. Gillingham,	15 00
Amos Ellmaker,	9 00
A. R McIlvaine,	12 00
J. K. Zeilin,	18 00
Robt. Stinson,	21 00
Wm. S. Hendrie,	30 00
J. Jenkins Ross,	18 00
Peter Filbert,	15 00
Wm. Addams,	15 00
John Harper,	9 00
Wm. McIlvain,	12 00
John Dickson,	15 00
John McKeehan,	9 00
John Reed,	18 00
Ashbel B. Wilson,	21 00
Ner Middleswarth,	21 00
Geo. Walker,	27 00
Thomas H. Burrowes,	9 00
Joseph Markle,	27 00
Justus G. Fordyce,	30 00
Thos. M. T. McKennan,	24 00
Harmar Denny,	18 00
Joseph Buffington,	30 00
Henry Black,	39 00
John Dick.	42 00

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN PRICE WETHERILL,
J. JENKINS ROSS,
JOSEPH BUFFINGTON,
Committee.

December 3, 1840.

On motion of Mr. McKennan,

Said report was again read, considered and adopted ,and Warrants were accordingly drawn.

On motion of Mr. Fordyce and Mr. Wilson, the following resolution was read and adopted:

Resolved, That the President of the College be authorized to draw his order on the State Treasurer for the sum of fifty dollars for defraying the contingent expenses of the College, to be appropriated as follows, viz: twenty dollars to defray the expense of printing five hundred copies of the Journal of the Electoral College, in pamphlet form, for distribution;—ten dollars to the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate and his assistants, and the ballance to the Secretary of the College.

On motion of Mr. Hendrie and Mr. Cope,

Mr. John Harper was unanimously appointed to take charge of the package to be delivered to the Post-Master at the Seat of Government.

Mr. Black, from the committee appointed to examine the signatures of the members of the Electoral College to the certificates and envelopes, reported:

That after carefully examining and comparing with the names contained in the Governor's certificate, they found that all the members of the College had signed.

Mr. Dick, from the committee on that subject, reported:

That the triplicate packages were duly sealed, and delivered to the President of the College.

The Electors then (with the exception of Mr. Ritner,) severally signed the following certificate:

STATE CAPITOL OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Electoral College, Dec. 3, 1840.

We the undersigned Electors for a President and Vice President of the United States, on the part of the State of Pennsylvania, do certify that Joseph Ritner, Esq. one of the Electors of the Electoral College of Pennsylvania, is hereby appointed to take charge of, and deliver to the President of the Senate of the United States, at Washington City, the seat of government of the United States: and in case there shall be no President of the Senate at the Seat of government on the arrival of Joseph Ritner, Esq. entrusted with the list of votes of the Electoral College, the said Joseph Ritner, Esq. shall deliver into the office of the Secretary of State, on or before the first Wednesday in January next, one of the packages containing the list of votes of this Electoral College for a President and Vice President of the U. States.

JOHN ANDREW SHULZE,
LEVIS PASSMORE,
JOHN PRICE WETHERILL,
THOS. P. COPE,
JONATHAN GILLINGHAM,
AMOS ELLMAKER,
JOHN DICKSON,
JOHN McKEEHAN,
JOHN REED,
ASHBEL B. WILSON,
NER MIDDLESWARTH,
GEORGE WALKER,

ABRAHAM R. McILVAINE,
JOHN K. ZEILIN,
ROBERT STINSON,
WILLIAM S. HENDRIE,
J. JENKINS ROSS,
PETER FILBERT,
WILLIAM ADDAMS,
JOHN HARPER,
WILLIAM McILVAIN,
THOS. H. BURROWES,
JOSEPH MARKLE,
JUSTUS G. FORDYCE,
TH. M. T. McKENNAN,
HARMAR DENNY,
JOSEPH BUFFINGTON,
HENRY BLACK,
JOHN DICK.

After which the President called Mr. Ritner, placed in his care one of the packages, and received his receipt as follows:

HARRISBURG, December 3, 1840.

Received from the President of the Electoral College of the State of Pennsylvania, certificates of the votes given by them on yesterday the 2d instant, for President and Vice President of the United States, to be, by me, delivered to "the President of the Senate of the United States, Washington City, D. C.," to whom the same is directed, before the first Wednesday in January next.

JOS. RITNER.

The President then called Dr. Hendrie, and delivered to him another package upon his signing the following receipt:

HARRISBURG, December 3, 1840.

Received from the President of the Electoral College of the State of Pennsylvania, certificates of the votes given by them on yesterday the 2d instant, for President and Vice President of the United States, endorsed "the President of the Senate of the United States, Washington city, D. C." and enclosed with this direction, "Joseph Hopkinson, Esq. Judge of the Eastern District of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia," to be, by me, delivered to the said Judge, within ten days from the 2d of December, 1840.

WM. S. HENDRIE.

The President then called Mr. Harper, and placed in his care the remaining package upon signing the following receipt:

HARRISBURG, December 3, 1840.

Received from the President of the Electoral College of the State of Pennsylvania, certificates of the votes given by them on yesterday the 2d instant, for President and Vice President of the United States, to be, by me, delivered to the Post-Master in this place, to be forwarded to "the President of the Senate of the United States, Washington City, D. C.," to whom the same is directed.

JOHN HARPER.

On motion of Gen. Markle and Mr. McKennan,

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Electoral College are hereby tendered to Alex. Ramsey, for the prompt, faithful and efficient manner in which he has discharged his duties as Secretary of the College.

On motion of Mr. Cope and Mr. Dickson,

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Electoral College are hereby tendered to his Excellency, John Andrew Shulze, President of the College, for the satisfactory and dignified manner in which the duties of the chair have been discharged.

Whereupon the President rose and said.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE:

Allow me to detain you, but for a few moments, before our final adjournment, while I express my satisfaction at the successful close of the duties assigned to us. The cause of our assemblage here, is indeed calculated to warm the heart of every patriot—it is the cause of the people—the consummation of a triumph over error, and achieved by those, who well know how to appreciate every success obtained in a struggle for liberty. True it is, that at times, we slumber—the people are indulgent, and submit to evident wrongs, in expectation of a change, which may eventuate in the happiness of our common country. But when protracted sufferings are endured without executive relief, the people step forward in their sovereignty, and call for Reform. This has recently been exemplified in a manner, not to be mistaken; and every patriot must rejoice in the success of a cause, so glorious to our country, so fraught with national blessings.

Far be it from us, to denounce those who honestly differ from us in opinion—many worthy individuals entertain sentiments on political policy, inconsistent with our views. But we feel assured, that before long, those who opposed our efforts, now so happily consummated by the action of this body, will find a cheering recompense for all their disappointments, in the return of our country to that happy policy, which distinguished the administrations of Thomas Jefferson and his immediate successor.

I shall only add, my cordial and sincere expression of thanks for the indulgence and respect, uniformly extended to me, while presiding over your important deliberations, and for your assistance to one unaccustomed to situations of similar responsibility, and unfamiliar with their rules. Permit me to wish each of you, individually, a safe and happy return to the cherished bosom of his family. May success ever attend our exertions in the glorious cause of political reform, and all be actuated by such high and patriotic views, that our country at large shall feel their benignant influences, and our children and our children's children reap the blessed results.

On motion of Mr. McKennan and Mr. Ritner,

The College adjourned *sine die*.

JOHN ANDREW SHULZE, President.

Attest,—

ALEX. RAMSEY, Secretary.